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FROM: Bob Gilluly
Sports News Editor

MISSOULA, OCT. ____ "We're disappointed, but not discouraged," was football coach Ray Jenkins' comment about Montana's 44-16 loss to New Mexico at Albuquerque Saturday night.

The game actually marked a number of "firsts"--disappointingly all in favor of New Mexico.

For one thing, it was the highest score recorded by the Lobos in their eight contests with Montana. The game also was the first one this season where the Grizzlies were badly beaten.

But most disappointing was the fact that Stan Renning's Outstanding Lineman string of 11 in a row was broken. Renning, although he played a superlative game, making 14 tackles and five assists, received only one vote. New Mexico's tough sophomore tackle, Frank Gullick, polled four votes.

"I guess it won't do any good to say we were robbed, but I definitely feel that Renning was the outstanding lineman on the field," Jenkins commented.

Assessing the explosive outburst by the Lobos--they scored six times after Montana jumped to a second-period 16-6 lead--Jenkins said the Grizzlies were tired. "It was the third straight road game for us, and that long airplane ride to Albuquerque contributed to our fatigue." The Grizzlies even passed up their usual pre-game workout in Albuquerque because Jenkins felt the Silvertips were tired.

"But you can't take anything away from New Mexico. They played championship ball," the mentor said.

The Lobos were particularly effective on plays run between tackle and end. "We stopped their end sweeps, but couldn't stop those off-tackle thrusts."

(more)

MSU-New Mexico Football game, continued

Montana's running game got off to a fine start, and tailback Bob Everson sparked the first TD drive with runs of 24 and 55 yards.

Even after New Mexico scored to whittle the MSU lead to 8-6, the Grizzlies came right back. With Henry Greminger, Howard Johnson, Larry Myers and Everson leading the way, they bowled over another score.

But after the midpoint of the second quarter the Grizzly offense sputtered. Jenkins was particularly disappointed with the Montana passing game. New Mexico used a seven and eight-man line throughout, and the Grizzlies didn't connect on a pass.

Three injuries may mean three Grizzlies unable to play in the Denver University fray Friday night at Denver. Guard Dale Sparber, fullback Jerry Young and Johnson are on the doubtful list. Everson suffered an elbow injury, but will play. The same applies to fullback Jim Neal, who hurt a knee.

With only three days of practice on the agenda before leaving for Denver, Jenkins said the 'Tips will work hard this week on developing a defense against the Pioneers.

"They've got a real fine ball club," he added. "I'm confident that our kids won't lay down and quit, but we're at a tremendous psychological and physical disadvantage right now."

The Grizzlies will fly to Denver Thursday and return Saturday. Line coach Tom Parry scouted the Pioneers in their 15-12 loss to Wyoming Saturday at Laramie, Wyo.

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